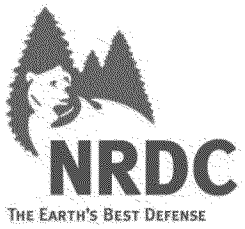

Water Action Plan Priority Goals and Objectives
September 6, 2013

PREAMBLE:

Our organizations strongly support the development of a meaningful Water Action Plan that includes sufficient funding, deadlines, and other commitments to ensure that the Plan will be implemented and these goals are achieved. We would like the opportunity to work with the Administration to estimate the total funding needed for Plan implementation, identify reliable and sustained funding sources, and a timeline for implementation. A beneficiary pays approach to funding is essential to the success of this Plan, with public funding expended on public benefits including ecosystem preservation and restoration, safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities, cost-sharing to incentivize local supply development that meaningfully reduces reliance on the Delta, and related co-benefits. A suite of funding tools, including bonds and fees, should be considered.

GOALS:

Any action or project that is implemented as part of the Water Action Plan should:

1. Be consistent with the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan.
2. Advance the dual goals of providing for a more reliable water supply for California, and protecting, restoring and enhancing California's aquatic environment.
3. Increase water, ecosystem, and economic resiliency in the face of climate change.

OBJECTIVES:

1.) Provide the flows necessary to meet the state's mandate to produce 990,000 naturally spawning chinook salmon annually, support viable, self-sustaining

populations of a broad range of other native aquatic species, and ensure sustainable river and estuary habitat conditions for a healthy, functional Bay-Delta ecosystem.

- Secure a major increase in ecologically vital freshwater flows into, through and from the Delta to San Francisco Bay at all critical times, with a primary goal of cumulatively moving significantly closer to the public trust target of 75% of the watershed's winter-spring flows reaching San Francisco Bay.
- SWRCB completes Phases 1 and 2 of the update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan by December 31, 2014 to reestablish more natural flow patterns and increase Delta inflows, through-flows and outflows to achieve salmonid doubling, viable fish and wildlife populations, and functional habitats.
- SWRCB completes Phase 3 by 2017 to allocate responsibility for meeting Phase 1 and 2 requirements.
- SWRCB completes Phase 4 by 2018 to establish instream flows and temperature requirements for tributaries in the Central Valley watershed.
- Cal-EPA and Resources Agency adopt a plan by 2014 to implement habitat, fish passage, and other actions, including actions upstream of the Delta, in the WQCP program of implementation that complement a water rights decision.

2.) Implement the state's policy to reduce reliance on the Delta watershed by substantially reducing demand and diversions from the Bay-Delta watershed from current average diversions, and investing in local and regional water supply tools. The current BDCP cost/benefit analysis prepared by DWR identifies an approximate 25% reduction in future diversions as a likely and reasonable target (establishing a future export baseline of 3.45 MAF on average, as compared to a 4.7 MAF average under existing requirements).

- Expand wastewater recycling sufficient to exceed the state's water recycling goal of 1 MAF over 2002 levels by 2020.
- Expand agricultural and urban water conservation and efficiency to exceed SB 7x7 targets and requirements.
- Expand stormwater capture and re-use sufficient to meet or exceed the SWRCB's goal of increasing stormwater re-use by 500,000 acre-feet over 2002 levels by 2020.

3.) Effectively integrate groundwater use into comprehensive water supply management to reduce impacts of groundwater withdrawals on stream flows and surface water supplies, reverse trends of overdraft, and enable more effective groundwater storage and conjunctive use.

- Strengthen current groundwater management plan requirements by establishing clear guidance on reducing impacts to surface water in effective groundwater management.
- Accelerate pilot tests of managed groundwater recharge approaches.

- Encourage and fund local and regional conjunctive management and groundwater banking programs.
- Provide funding and incentives to clean up contaminated groundwater basins.

4.) Reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding and significantly expand the area of frequently inundated floodplain habitat for fish and wildlife.

- Protect undeveloped and agricultural floodplains.
- Expand floodplain and floodway capacity to safely accommodate large floods, provide increased habitat, and enable more flexibility in reservoir operations.
- Restore the area of frequently inundated floodplain habitat for native fish and wildlife species:
  - called for in the 2009 salmonid biological opinion by 2020;
  - called for in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.
- Improve levees in selected locations to provide needed flood protection, appropriately incorporating our modern understanding of flood hydrology and risk management.

5.) Promote a sustainable and vibrant agricultural economy, including maintaining the Williamson Act and developing and investing in programs designed to compensate farmers and ranchers for good stewardship practices that provide public trust benefits.

6.) Protect and restore natural watershed processes in both urban and rural environments to reduce flooding and polluted run-off and to increase groundwater recharge and dry season stream flows.

- Protect and restore mountain meadows and forested lands.
- Invest in green infrastructure to infiltrate stormwater in developed areas.
- Implement the current state policy of "no net loss" of wetlands, including finalizing the proposed SWRCB's State Wetlands and Riparian Protection Policy.

7.) Create a transparent, equitable, and efficient decision making process that allows all Californians to shape decisions that determine the allocation of water and water management resources as well as the management of beneficial uses of the state's water.

8.) Improve water quality to provide drinkable and swimmable water for all people with special attention provided for disadvantaged communities and a healthy ecosystem for aquatic organisms.